

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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P R 281645Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4774

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1185

EXDIS

DEPT PASS COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: CONVERSATION WITH NEW
PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: REYKJAVIK 1149

1. I TALKED BRIEFLY AND SEPARATELY LAST NIGHT TO GEIR
HALLGRIMSSON WHO ASSUMES PRIME MINISTERSHIP THIS AFTERNOON
AND TO FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON. BOTH EXPRESSED DESIRE TO
CONTINUE TO HAVE CLOSE PERSONAL AND WORKING RELATIONSHIP
WITH ME AND BOTH ASKED ME TO MEET WITH THEM MONDAY SEP 2
TO DISCUSS "NEXT STEPS" IN THE DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS. MY
APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER IS FOR 11 AM LOCAL TIME
AND LATER IN DAY WITH FONMIN.

2. PRIME MINISTER STATED "OUR PROBLEMS ARE OVER."
HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT WE WILL SETTLE THE BASE
ISSUE AMICABLY.

3. FONMIN REMINDED ME OF OUR CONVERSATION AUG 21
(REPORTED REFTTEL) AND SAID WE WILL BE PLEASED WITH DE-
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FENSE PLATFORM WHICH WILL BE MADE PUBLIC TOMORROW. HE

REMARKED HE WAS UNHAPPY THAT HE HAD TO MAKE SO MANY PERSONAL COMPROMISES IN THE WORDING OF THE PLATFORM. HE SAID THAT WHEN WE MEET ON MONDAY HE MIGHT WANT TO "DISCUSS OR SUGGEST" AN APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS "DETAILS FOR SETTLEMENT AS SET FORTH BY THE NEW GOVT." (COMMENT: HE OBVIOUSLY IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT "FACE SAVING.")

4. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION I HAD WITH AN INFORMED SOURCE A COUPLE DAYS AGO (BUT NOT REPORTED) WHO ACCURATELY PREDICTED THE MAKE-UP OF THE NEW CABINET, I LEARNED THAT AGUSTSSON ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY HAD WITHDRAWN HIS INSISTENCE ON THE WORD "CONSIDERABLE" AS RELATES TO MILITARY REDUCTIONS (REFTEL), THUS GOING AGAINST THE EARLIER DICTATES OF HIS PARTY ON THIS POINT. WE SHALL KNOW TOMORROW IF THIS INFORMATION IS ACCURATE, TOO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPTS VIEWS ON TIMING AND SITE OF NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE FONMIN MIGHT WANT TO TIE IT IN WITH HIS UNGA TRIP END SEPT. I WILL TRY TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE AT MONDAY'S MEETINGS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF STATE 187719, TO WHICH I WILL RESPOND LATER.
IRVING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

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